

The Colonist.

MONDAY, JULY 24, 1899.

PARTY LINES.

Arguing for party lines in local politics, the Vancouver World says that Sir Wilfrid Laurier wants them drawn. So does Sir Herbert Tupper, but, with all respect to these gentlemen, we are inclined to think that their wishes are rather in the nature of an argument against the proposed innovation. Sir Wilfrid and Sir Herbert naturally regard the matter from their own standpoint. Anything that will tend to cement all agencies in an effort to advance the interests of their respective parties will meet with support from them. This is because they subordinate provincial interests to those of the Dominion. But no such subordinate relation exists. The present session of parliament is drawing to a close. Will the World or some other advocate of party lines tell us in what respect the legislation at Ottawa and the contention between parties there come so much more closely home to the transactions of our own legislature, than we should give them a place in our consideration which will make them overshadow provincial politics? The World asks the Colonist why it has changed its views since last September. The Colonist has not changed its views. After the Conservative convention in Vancouver, at which a resolution was adopted favoring the introduction of party lines at the next general election, the Colonist gave a qualified endorsement to the proposal, saying that it did so only because there seemed to be no other way out of the rut into which local politics had fallen. But the times have changed, and public opinion has changed with the times. A session of the legislature has intervened, and the legislation of that session and the acts of administration before and since have demonstrated that what the province needs is a government and legislature composed of the best available men, who will give us administration and legislation based upon sound business principles. Provincial politics can be placed on this higher level by taking advantage of the very strong current of public opinion, and this is why we think that a resort to party lines, which seemed inevitable a year ago, is unnecessary now.

THE COMING CAUCUS.

People are beginning to talk about the coming government caucus, at which the Premier is to learn whether or not he has the confidence of his own party. Some people wonder if the gentle Joseph will be there, and if so what sort of things will be in his inside pocket or elsewhere for the humiliation of the faithful. Of course he will be there. He was not overlooked when the distribution of doggedness was in progress, and if any one wants to find him when the caucus is in session they will be likely to find him in the room where the caucus meets. Will he read the riot act to Mr. Semlin after the style of his published letter? Will he have a certain alleged "deliberately falsified" document to prove his case against Mr. Cotton? Or is it likely, as is whispered here and there, that these two heroes of Deadman's Island will fall into each other's arms and embrace to the delight of all and sundry the rank and file? If the latter is what shall take place, what will be the feelings of sundry gentlemen on the government side who fancied they saw cabinet positions yawning to engulf them? What will the rest of the party do in such a disagreeable emergency? Presumably the caucus will be held behind closed doors, but Mr. Semlin will make the mistake of his life if he fails to have a kitescope at hand, for a reproduction of the scenes with a phonographic attachment would sell for enough to make him secure on Easy Street for the balance of his days, no matter how soon he may resign the luxury of office. If the caucus were held in the theatre, "Standing Room Only" would have to be hung early in the day if the tickets were \$5 each. The event will be unique, as unique as the Lieutenant-Governor's want of confidence speech at Bennett. And by the way, will Mr. Semlin bring that up at the caucus and tell his supporters that they must get ready to eat all their brave words of last session? Or will he tell them that if the Lieutenant-Governor proposes to strike out on a policy of his own, he must find another first minister?

THE PREMIER'S SALARY.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier's statement as to his private affairs, called forth by Mr. Taylor's regrettable reference to them, lends the Montreal Gazette to say that the salary of premier ought to be increased. It is now \$5,000, which is not nearly as much as a man fit for the position can earn in any other business or profession, under favorable conditions. The expenses attaching to the position are heavy, and we do not suppose that any man can leave the premiership, no matter how long he may hold it, with more than a small amount of savings, unless he had some source of income apart from his salary. Other ministers may be able to keep their business connections alive, so as to have something to return to when the wheel of fortune goes against them. We know this to be the case with some of the members of the present federal cabinet. But a premier can hardly hope to do this. At any rate, Canadian premiers, as a rule, have not. Sir John Macdonald had no

private business, and would have been severely embarrassed if his friends had not come to the rescue. Sir John Thompson left a very small estate. Sir John Abbott died wealthy, but he made his money before entering politics. Alexander Mackenzie was in very moderate circumstances. We do not suggest that a premier should be paid a salary that will enable him to save a fortune, but he ought to get enough to put him above financial worry when in office, and enable him, if he remains in power for a few years, to lay by a little without being niggardly. Among other things, the Gazette says:

As the years have gone by, and Canada has grown bigger, the expenses entailed by holding high office have greatly increased, and no one familiar with what is expected from the First Minister in the way of social entertainment believes that it is possible for him to do more than make ends meet. The claims upon him increase year by year, and his salary does not grow in the same proportion. The expenses of living in Ottawa, and the scale of social entertainments all over the country have greatly advanced since the Premier's salary was fixed at \$8,000, and there are few salaries attached to positions approaching it in importance which are not at a very much higher figure.

And the Toronto Globe adds: There is much truth in all this. The remuneration of the Prime Minister of the Dominion would be regarded as scanty by the manager of a branch railway, a small bank, or any considerable financial concern. He has not even the security of tenure that such officers have. Public life is a sickle master, and a change in the wheel deprives a leader in a moment of the revenue by which he lives. While in office he has neglected his own proper calling, and cannot at once return to it, even if his duties as leader of the opposition leave him sufficient time to labor for its restoration.

Some people are beginning to think that Mr. Semlin "did not know it was loaded."

Of all the gold "fakes" ever sprung upon the public, it looks now as if that of Cape Nome was the worst.

The Kootenay Mail says it is a champion of the "hot polloi." Why then, may we ask, is it not printed in Greek?

So far, none of the World's Liberal co-workers have shown any disposition to follow its lead within party lines.

The very superior Times thinks it pointless to discuss the political situation. The Times would probably find it so.

If the policy of repudiation had not prevailed in this province, railroad building would probably be under way now, on three lines from the Coast to the Interior.

"An Inquirer" is informed that we do not know if there is any truth in the report that Mr. Martin has gone to San Francisco en route to the Philippines to become Aguinaldo's attorney-general.

Atlin will be found to be all right yet. Nevertheless there are quite enough people there now for all present purposes. Next year will be soon enough to go.

The Rossland Miner discovers in the Interior a strong feeling for dissolution of the house in order that the people should be allowed to properly represent them at Victoria. It says very truly that "the great body of electors have no concern whatever with the present differences of Messrs. Martin and Cotton."

The Globe wants to know when the uneasily squabbling in the government will end. Our young contemporary is impatient. It may live and flourish a thousand years, and never see such a positively unique political circus as is now on. Instead of lamenting, our contemporary ought to apply to Mr. Semlin for exclusive kitescope rights at the forthcoming caucus. Since the New York Herald turned the animals in Central park loose, there has been no such chance for a newspaper sensation.

The Redistribution bill is d-d-i for this year. The Colonist opposed the bill, on the ground that it set an extremely bad precedent, but it doubts very much whether it is wise for the Senate to interfere with the popular branch in matters affecting such subjects as taxation, the franchise, and the redistribution of representation. We are glad that the bill has failed, for its passage would have been construed into a precedent, but we could have wished that the defeat had come about in some other way.

Up to yesterday afternoon no word had been received from the Lieutenant-Governor since July 1. His family had a letter from him of that date, which came to hand on the 14th. It was dated at Bennett, and he was then on his way to Atlin. Whether he has yet heard of the charming row, that has developed in his political family during his absence, no one is in a position to say. The Private Secretary says that he expects him home at any time after this week, for he has already been absent nearly as long as he intended.

Mr. Blair having received the sanction of parliament to his Drummond County and Grand Trunk railway bargaining stands to win or lose much reputation as a public man. If he can make such a showing of traffic for the Intercolonial as will put an end, once for all, to the period of deficits, he will gain much in the estimation of the country as a minister of business ability, and will enjoy a measure of public confidence that will secure him the reversion of the leadership of his party, if Sir Wilfrid Laurier should at any time desire to abandon that post for a position on the Supreme Court of Canada, as has been suggested as among the possibilities.

The news of the death of Dixie H. Ross was heard with great regret by the people of Victoria yesterday. Mr. Ross was a man of much force of character and business enterprise. He had hosts of friends. He leaves behind him an honorable record. His wife and family have the sympathy of the entire community.

The Colonist grieves to observe that a certain evening paper of this city, whose soul used to be shocked by every appearance of that literary monstrosity known as "a split infinitive," has fallen into the terrible habit of employing the same.

We trust it will be warned in time. The use of the split infinitive, like hitting the pipe, a fondness for whiskey and a liking for pretty girls, grows upon those who indulge in it, and it would be sad, indeed, to see one so innocent and ingenious become a prey to the habit. Let it pause in its mad career before it is eternally too late.

The Toronto Globe mentions an incident where a man named Murphy stated that Messrs. Ogilvie and Senkler were interested with him in a claim and afterwards apologized for it, and it says this illustrates how Yukon scandals are made up.

The Globe does itself a great injustice in this, for it must know perfectly well that there was very much more foundation for the stories than the idle gossip of bar-rooms. There was excellent basis in fact, established by scores of people among whom there could be no collusion, that things were abominably administered. Perhaps the best proof of this is that the men charged with abusing their offices had all been sent home on their own expense.

If there had been serious cause for complaint, which even the government could not ignore, there would not have been such a complete change.

We print a letter dealing with Mr. Martin's charge against Mr. Cotton. This is one of several such letters that have been sent in, and we print it because we think it would be no longer fitting that this very serious allegation should remain unanswered. A friend of the Finance Minister said yesterday that the latter could not be expected to reply to such a man as Mr. Martin, but this will not do. Mr. Martin is a colleague of Mr. Cotton in the representation of Vancouver and also in the government of the province. So far as Mr. Cotton's friends and acquaintances go, a dignified silence may be a sufficient answer. But what of all the other people in this province? What of the thousands of people outside of this province, who are watching the game in progress here? The Colonist has no right to dictate to Mr. Cotton as to what course he shall take in matters that concern his private honor only. But this matter concerns the Province of Vancouver, and it is his duty to speak, and give his accuser the fittest denial.

FARMER AND SPORTSMAN. From Forest and Stream.

"There is an inseparable relation between the sportsman and the farmer that may be strained or strengthened according to his abuse or respect. I look upon the farmer as the sportsman's best and most reliable friend, for it is he who furnishes the land and through whose courtesy the sportsman is permitted to hunt upon it.

There is a gentleman willing to meet a gentleman more than half way. Rowdies he will not tolerate. Nearly all farmers are good for one and another as a rule of its enjoyment, although they may to some extent be lacking in appreciation of the sportsman's details that are so much the city man's thing, because an every-day association with his surroundings makes them less noticeable to him.

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LOCAL NEWS.

Northern Mail.—The mail for Port Simpson and Northern coast points closes at the post office to-night.

Will Meet This Evening.—The members of the Victoria Board of Education will meet this evening at the office of the board. The call is for 7:30 sharp.

Sidewalk Cycling.—Many cyclists in the city are holding the by-law prohibiting sidewalk riding in contempt, and the consequence severe complaints have been sworn to in the police court and are now awaiting service. The police intend to fully enforce the ordinance in the future.

A Chance for Horse Buyers.—Mr. Jones has announced a special sale of horses at the Broadmead farm Saturday, the 29th inst., which should command the attention of all horse buyers. The horses are of a fine quality and are being sold at a very low price.

A Runaway Baby.—A gust of wind caught a baby carriage containing a child, which had been left standing on the sidewalk. The child was carried almost half a block. The mother of the child had left the carriage standing on the sidewalk while she went to the store to buy some provisions, and as no one was near at the time to stop the buggy in its run down the street, the police were obliged to kill. Luck was guarding the little one, and it escaped unhurt.

Preparing for the Tax Sale.—City Treasurer Kent and his clerks are busy making out a list of the delinquent tax property and arranging for a sale to be held some time in the fall. The property to be included in this sale will be that on which the taxes of 1898 and previous years have not been paid. The interest which will be added in a few weeks, they should pay the amounts due on their property.

The Yates Street Hall.—Fire hall No. 2, on Yates street, which has been in course of erection for some time, is ready for occupancy on Monday morning, and after that date two men, two horses and a combined chemical engine and hose wagon will be engaged in repairing the interior and arranging places for the harness and quarters for the men.

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Mr. Calvert returned to his hotel he missed the money and immediately reported the matter to Constable Campbell, who arrested the man. He stated the plea of guilty with the excuse of strong temptation, operated in favor of a light sentence.

A Test of Information.—The people of the Metropolitan Methodist church are nothing if not eminently original in their method of entertainment, and the latest function on their list may fairly be classed as something far from the ordinary. It is a social project by the Epworth League, in connection with which a test is to be made of the fund of modern information possessed by the young people, as well as of their powers of debating. Prizes are to be given for the best impromptu three-minute speeches, the subjects to be announced the time so that no one will have opportunity of preparation.

After Many Days.—R. H. Jameson, the Fort street grocer, yesterday recovered a horse he lost last spring, while some boys had him, camping near Seke during his voyage from San Francisco which he was tied, and since that time nothing was heard or seen of him until yesterday, when a boy named Johnson, residing on the Gorge road, was seen riding him on Government street. The animal was recognized by his owners as a white horse, and when the rider was told to deliver the goods he refused to do so, stating that he had bought the horse for a visit and on the night of the assistance of the provincial police was secured, and the boy was compelled to walk home. Mr. Jameson's brother went to the horse before the animal was lost, and to prove that he was the owner, put the horse through the men and also that he felt the mane of the horse. Luck was guarding the little one, and it escaped unhurt.

Preparing for the Tax Sale.—City Treasurer Kent and his clerks are busy making out a list of the delinquent tax property and arranging for a sale to be held some time in the fall. The property to be included in this sale will be that on which the taxes of 1898 and previous years have not been paid. The interest which will be added in a few weeks, they should pay the amounts due on their property.

The Yates Street Hall.—Fire hall No. 2, on Yates street, which has been in course of erection for some time, is ready for occupancy on Monday morning, and after that date two men, two horses and a combined chemical engine and hose wagon will be engaged in repairing the interior and arranging places for the harness and quarters for the men.

Where Are They?—According to the Province of Vancouver, the Hon. G. Nevill, who after three years' evasion of justice has given himself up to the justice of the law, is now in Alaska, about living in this city. Nevill is worth \$11,000 from the Hudson's Bay Co., the greater part of this sum being spent in the purchase of a steamship, the Gen. Underwood, with whom the defaulter lived for a time in Victoria. It is possible that she is the person referred to by the Province.

Invoking the Law.—The young whites who make a profession of Christianity are not always to have everything their own way apparently, for Adolph Kiminsky has been served with a summons to appear in court yesterday, the charge being assault.

Mr. H. M. Hills, in whose behalf, while the father of whose name he has obtained a remand, in order that he may also be represented. The prosecutor is a resident in that locality can rest in the consciousness that they have fire protection near at hand.

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